Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the title of the application as follows:

Block error ~~rate~~ratio measurements

Please amend the first paragraph of the specification beginning at line 4 on page 1 of the application:

This invention relates to measurements of block error ~~rate~~ratio (BLER) in data communications systems, such as the general packet radio service (GPRS) being proposed for use on GSM wireless mobile communications systems.

Please amend the second paragraph of the specification beginning at line 9 on page 1 of the application:

An ETSI change request to GSM 04.14 (ETSI Document 2-00-1004) and the accompanying liaison statement response (ETSI Document 2-00-1007) has made significant changes to the general packet radio service (GPRS) test modes previously envisaged. As a consequence, there are some changes to the handling of the downlink temporary block flow (TBF) which preclude the making of block error ~~rate~~ratio (BLER) measurements within the test mode. BLER measurements require a sustained flow of data blocks while the measurement is being made.

Please amend the paragraph of the specification beginning at line 27 on page 1 of the application:

According to one aspect of this invention there is provided a method of making block error ~~rate~~ratio measurements in a layered protocol communications system, comprising the steps of:

opening and maintaining an information block flow by sending repeated message blocks which are defined at a selected layer in the protocol stack below the topmost layer; and

monitoring ack/nack messages sent in response to the message blocks to determine whether the message blocks have been correctly transported.

Please amend the paragraph of the specification beginning at line 9 on page 3 of the application:

The GPRS standards specify various tests to be performed on equipment, such as mobile stations and base stations, intended for use with GPRS. These tests include measurement of the rate of errors affecting the transfer of data blocks to and from items of equipment, that is the block error ~~rate~~ratio or BLER. This measurement can be performed, for example as shown in Figure 4, using a suitable wireless communication test set (such as the Agilent 8960 Series 10 available from Agilent Technologies) coupled to a mobile station via a direct RF connection. The test set contains software defining the GPRS hierarchy or stack of protocol layers, enabling it to emulate a mobile telephone base station and generate a data sequence which the mobile station receives and processes. The BLER can be determined by observation of the data blocks thereby transferred.